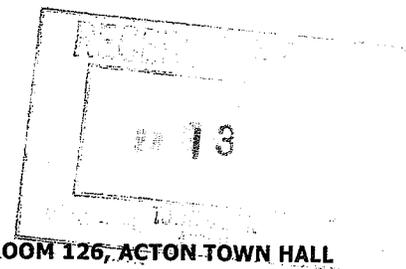




Town of Acton Recreation Commission



MINUTES -
DATE: APRIL 15, 2009

7:00 PM

ROOM 126, ACTON TOWN HALL

ATTENDEES	Recreation Commission members present were Mr. Ron Schlegel, Ms. Karen Jarsky, Mr. Frank Calore and Ms. Kim Bodnar. Also present was Ms. Cathy Fochtman, Recreation Director and Ms. Cheryl Getsick, Secretary Note taker: Cheryl Getsick
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AGENDA TOPICS

Meeting called to order at: 7:00 PM

Citizens Concerns:

DISCUSSION	<p>Resident Ms. Diane Warner left Ms. Fochtman a phone message regarding the Goward playground. Noted within the message were broken tabletops, exposed tree roots, lack of mulch materials. There are ongoing maintenance issues at the Goward playground.</p> <p>Ms. Maya Spies is a member of the "Friends of Dogs Committee". Ms. Spies presented a letter to Ms. Fochtman which proposed that the Board of Selectmen (BOS) create a Friends of Dogs Committee. Ms. Spies made note of the leashing regulation at NARA Park and was concerned public consideration was not involved in the decision. Ms. Fochtman explained to Ms. Spies that the BOS relied on the Town of Acton Recreation Commission for their recommendations when considering the needs at NARA Park. Ms. Spies would like to see the proposed Friends of Dogs Committee serve as an educational resource and advise the BOS on non-urgent dog related issues.</p>
CONCLUSIONS	<p>Ms. Fochtman advised Ms. Warner that the issues she listed were in the process of being addressed by the Natural Resources grounds crew and that mulch was being ordered and an ABRHS Senior Class Team was being assigned to spread the mulch at the playground on May 1, 2009.</p> <p>Ms. Fochtman reviewed Ms. Spies proposal letter and returned it annotated with her comments.</p>

CONSENT AGENDA

DISCUSSION	March 3, 2009 minutes
CONCLUSIONS	March 3, 2009 minutes were accepted as amended, 4-0

TOPIC: NARA Staffing Updates

DISCUSSION	<p>Ms. Fochtman has been interviewing many candidates and offers will be made next week. There are approximately twelve vacant positions. The Onsite Director position as well as the Waterfront Director position needs to be filled as well. An advertisement was placed last week for the two positions. April 21st is the deadline for responses.</p> <p>Ms. Fochtman provided a comparison of NARA Youth 2009 vs. NARA Youth 2008 enrollment. The figures include tuition, pre and post care. The deadline for registering for a particular week is the Wednesday before the upcoming week. Mr. Schlegel noted that people are uncertain about their situations for the summer. Ms. Bodnar questioned in terms of dollar amount what was the total percentage for last year vs. current. Ms. Fochtman noted approximately a quarter of the amount. Ms. Fochtman commented there is a difference this year because public school will remain in session during what would normally be the first session. Mr. Calore asked about salaries and if they are intact. Ms. Fochtman noted that some of them are being reduced.</p>
CONCLUSIONS	Ms. Fochtman noted that Recreation has placed advertisements for the NARA Youth Summer Program in the Acton Beacon and Action Unlimited to be published in Acton and surrounding towns.

TOPIC: 2009 SENIOR WORKDAY

DISCUSSION	Acton Boxborough Regional High School Senior Workday is scheduled for May 1, 2009. There are three (3) locations with approximately ten (10) people: Goward Playground, NARA Park and T.J. O'Grady. There is approximately \$3K available to purchase the necessary mulch for the playgrounds. Ms. Fochtman stated 110 cubic yards would be delivered and split between Goward and NARA Park. Ms. Fochtman is seeking quotes for additional site work to be done at Goward playground to replace rotting timbers that contain pea stone mulch and restore the stone dust on the entry path and around the bench. Recreation will obtain quotes from an outside contractor to work that as a project to complete by year end which is June 30, 2009. The likely source of funding will be from Natural Resources if town approval is received.
CONCLUSIONS	Ms. Fochtman will provide a public notice to the Beacon regarding the closure of the two playgrounds on May 1, 2009.

TOPIC: NARA PLAYGROUND

DISCUSSION	Ms. Fochtman recently discovered why the drainage at the NARA Playground is not working. It was clogged but is now fixed. The screen over the pipe will be replaced. Replacement of the post and rail fence is another project as the posts are rotting and the posts are loose and leaning over. Recreation will obtain a quote from DeLuca fence, the vendor who installed the beach fence. They will price a black chain link that matches what is on the beach now. Ms. Jarsky asked if it would be possible to add a second gate facing the picnic area and would it be a safety concern having two openings at the playground?
CONCLUSIONS	Approval from the Acton Town Manager for the unused fund from Natural Resources is required. Ms. Fochtman will check into the usefulness of having two gates.

TOPIC: FIELD FEE DISCUSSINO

DISCUSSION	Ms. Cheryl Mahoney, from the Boxborough Town Selectman's office requested information as to the Acton policy about charging fees to youth leagues. Ms. Fochtman stated the youth leagues are not charged. It was mentioned that the Town of Boxborough voted not to support contributing monies for Leary Field or for T.J. O'Grady Skatepark.
CONCLUSIONS	Ms. Fochtman informed Ms. Mahoney of the process regarding the meetings for her involvement in the future.

TOPIC: SPRING FIELD OPENINGS

DISCUSSION	Most fields are currently open with the exception of Hart, Jones and Great Hill which currently remain closed. The soccer league is waiting on School Street. This week the Boy Scouts will conduct their Scout Jamboree. Soccer is waiting on Great Hill as well.
CONCLUSIONS	Ms. Sue Ruther is coordinating email field status notification in cooperation with Ms. Fochtman by 1:00pm each day for weather related closings.

TOPIC: T.J. O'GRADY

	Ms. Fochtman received a concern from the Town of Acton Police Department. The police officers are concerned regarding behaviors at TJ O'Grady, such as users ignoring the rules, trash everywhere, as well as portable structures being destroyed. Officer Dan Silva had asked that he be allowed to grant suspensions on a graduating level to the offenders. Officer Silva does not feel he has control of the park. The crowd has changed over the past few years. The police are involved but have no control over what occurs what's there. This is big concern for the officers keeping an eye on the park.
CONCLUSIONS	Ms. Fochtman has forwarded the information provided onto the Acton Town Manager and Chief of Police. Suspensions have previously been implemented on a case by case need.

TOPIC: THE LIONS CLUB, DANNY'S JUICE AND AASL

DISCUSSION	This mid-June event will be very intense. Set up of the fair is scheduled for Tuesday. Friday evening Recreation is sponsoring a concert, a Pink Floyd Tribute Band. Acton Adult Softball League has been approached about conducting a possibly tournament however they have not confirmed their availability. Mr. Calore spoke about offsite parking being coordinated by either Recreation or the Lions Club. Ms. Fochtman stated that both parties are working together on this issue. Recreation has reserved the right to use Nagog Park Drive for that week. Recreation has also suggested the Lions Club ask the Acton School District to utilize the school campus for additional offsite parking. The Lions Club will look into this. Ms. Jarsky asked how long the walk from Nagog Park Drive to NARA Park is. Ms. Fochtman commented it is approximately a ten (10) minute walk. The logistics are being worked out especially the certificate of insurance. Danny's Juice Music Festival will be an all day/ evening event with approximately fifteen (15) bands scheduled to play. Dunkin Donuts will host three different events.
CONCLUSIONS	The Town of Acton's insurance carrier wants to see a much higher level and Recreation wants to specify what the "acceptable level of damage" to the field, what is over and above restitution for immediate resolution. There will not be any irrigation used on the field the week before.

TOPIC: ACTON DAY

	On September 12, 2009 Recreation will be hosting, Acton Day. Recreation is looking at changing the scope of Acton Day, changing it into a day time festival with music, food and agriculture. Discussion with the Acton Farmer's Market chairperson Jen Taylor has begun. A new donor, Enterprise Bank offered to support some events. Promotional materials were presented. All summer concerts expenses are covered.
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REPORTS

DISCUSSION	<p>a) Elm Street Update – AASL has offered to help pay for some drainage improvements to the softball field out of the dues collected from their league. They received quotes from various contractors. Drainage will be installed along the baseline and thirty (30) cubic yards of infield material will be installed as well.</p> <p>b) Morrison Farm Update - An agreement with an architectural firm as to what can be done to improve the buildings was signed off on this week. Also, Friday is the day the community gardens open for the season. Recreation has added new fencing as the plots have expanded. Recreation</p>
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has also created some permanent gardens along the side. Creation of an orchard for Ms. Pam Resor is underway by an eagle scout who is performing this as his project. There will be eight (8) fruit trees.

c) CPC

All projects were passed at the Town Meeting

d) NARA Improvements –A changing room / storage room is designed and includes a sidewalk leading up to the ticket/snackbar booth. Construction of the building structure will begin soon.

e) School Street

Recreation has been going around about how to move forward in placing an irrigation system at School Street. There is investigation as to whether a well can be installed into the field side of School Street or go over to the corn field. Due to regulations, nobody can put a private well on the fields we are leasing. This has been established by the Board of Health. Mr. Calore asked if this would be a full sprinkler system. Ms. Fochtman stated yes. The other option is running a water cannon by a nearby stream, or to hook into the Town of Acton water which is limited by restrictions. Recreation can not improve the field unless there is water.

f) Open Space and Recreation Plan This is at a standstill. The survey was performed by the Ashton's; unfortunately they are no longer available to continue to working on it. Mr. Tom Tidman has allocated some time on a weekly basis to work on this. There is a lot of research to be done.

g) Playground Update

Ms. Fochtman is planning to provide a report on Town playgrounds to the BOS on April 27, 2009. Some of the projects which she would like to request immediate upgrades for are the Goward playground and replacement of the Jones Field net protecting the playground. Ms. Bodnar suggested possibly having a fund raiser if the projects are not approved. Ms. Fochtman noted codes have changed since the original installation of posts at Goward. The Elm Street playground was declared outdated years ago, in 2002. Ms. Fochtman would like to have the list of projects prioritized before the BOS meeting so that the Recreation Commissioners are able to review prior to submission. Ms. Bodnar asked if the parks are sprayed for ticks; Ms. Fochtman stated the town opts not to do this as the parks are surrounded by wetlands.

NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION

DISCUSSION	Nothing to report
MEETING ADJOURNED TIME:	8:45 PM